



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 18, 2008, 6:30 a.m.

I-80/94 Still Closed

INDOT hopes to open expressway mid-day Thursday

LAKE and PORTER COUNTIES, Ind. – I-80/94 at Kennedy Avenue still has water on the road just east of the interchange but the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) anticipates reopening the expressway by mid-day today.

INDOT crews are still on the scene pumping water at the Kennedy Ave. back into the Little Calumet River. Once the water is clear from the travel lanes crews will sweep debris from the road before reopening to traffic. Water has receded between Chase and Grant Streets in Gary and most of the water at the I-65 interchange has been pumped off the road.

Tolls are still temporarily waived on I-90 (Indiana Toll Road) for westbound traffic AFTER the Portage Toll Barrier (MM 24) through the Westpoint Plaza, the last toll plaza in Indiana at mile marker 0; tolls are still being collected on the Chicago Skyway in Illinois. Tolls are waived for eastbound traffic AT the Westpoint plaza (MM 0) through the Portage plaza (MM 24); tolls are still collected for traffic continuing east on the Indiana Toll Road. As soon as I-80/94 is opened to through traffic this emergency toll arrangement will go back to normal toll operations.

As of 6:30 a.m. the following roads are closed:

Northbound I-65 between U.S. 24 in Jasper County and I-80/94 in Lake County

- **Detour:** NB I-65 can travel only as far north as U.S. 24 before being diverted to U.S. 24 westbound to either I-57 in Illinois to bypass northwest Indiana; or take NB U.S. 41 to U.S. 30 to access northwest Indiana. This is to prevent additional traffic on the already congested U.S. 30.

Westbound I-80/94 between S.R. 51 and State Road 152 (Indianapolis Blvd.) in Lake County

- **Detour:** from Michigan – I-94 west to I-90 (if going to Chicago) or S.R. 49 south to U.S. 30 west (if going to I-65 south); traffic can access westbound I-80/94 at State Road 152 (Indianapolis Blvd.).

Eastbound I-80/94 between Illinois State Line and State Road 51 (Ripley Street) in Lake County

- **Detour:** from Illinois – I-90 east from Westpoint with no tolls to Lake Station/S.R. 51 to EB I-94; I-394 south to U.S. 30 east to State Road 49 (S.R. 49) north back to I-94; and traffic can bypass the flooded northwest Indiana area by taking I-57 to EB U.S. 24 to I-65.

S.R. 51 between U.S. 6 and Fairview in Lake Station, Lake County

State Road 55 (S.R. 55) between the towns of Thayer in Newton County and Shelby in Lake County

- **Detour:** Northbound S.R. 55 – S.R. 10 west to U.S. 41 north to S.R. 2 east and back to S.R. 55; southbound S.R. 55 – S.R. 2 west to U.S. 41 south to S.R. 10 east and back to S.R. 55

Motorists in these areas should seek an alternate route. INDOT crews and ISP are on scene to redirect traffic around the closures in addition to signage.

Traffic has access near the Borman at the following locations:

- Northbound and Southbound S.R. 152 (Indianapolis Boulevard) is open to through traffic and has access to westbound I-80/94 only – eastbound is still closed at this exit.
- Southbound U.S. 41 (Calumet) has access to westbound I-80/94; Calumet south of I-80/94 is closed as it still closed to high water.
- North and southbound S.R. 912 (Cline Ave.) is open to local traffic; traffic cannot access I-80/94.
- Westbound traffic can access I-94 at I-90 and S.R. 51 north; S.R. 51 south is still closed in Lake Station between U.S. 6 and Fairview.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has issued a toll free number to report flood damage. Northwest Indiana residents can call 888-335-9490 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to report flood damage. Due to the amount of calls DHS asks for your patience at this time.

Due to the heavy rainfalls over the past few days many state, city and county roads have water on the roadway and shoulders. When possible these areas are marked with “High Water” signage. When encountering a flooded roadway, INDOT urges drivers to remember “Turn around, don’t drown.” According to the National Weather Service, most flooding deaths occur in automobiles. Six inches of standing water is enough to cause passenger cars to stall and a foot of water will float many vehicles.

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For questions about INDOT construction in other parts of the state, please call (866) 849-1368
www.in.gov/indot